

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - MAJOR TAIPEI PAPERS HAVE QUESTIONED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REPORTED OPTIMISM OVER A MIDEAST SOLUTION AND LAMENTED U.S. CAMBODIA POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) IN A FRONT-PAGED COMMENTARY MARCH 12 SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OPTIMISM OVER THE MIDEAST SITUATION MAY BE PREMATURE. ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS THAT THE U.S. IS NEAR A SOLUTION VIA KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, THE RUSSIANS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ISOLATING EGYPT FROM ITS ARAB PARTNERS AND A SETTLEMENT CAN NOT BE REALIZED WITHOUT COOPERATION OF SUCH ARAB DISSENTERS AS ALGERIA, SYRIA, LIBYA AND IRAQ.

3. LEADING UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) MARCH 12 CARRIED REPORT FROM MIDDLE EAST REPORTING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LATEST DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS THERE. PAPER SAID GAP BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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EGYPT AND ISRAEL OVER A SINAI SEPARATION HAS NOT BEEN

CLOSED AND KISSINGER FACES GREATEST TEST OF HIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH.

4. UNITED DAILY NEWS MARCH 13 EDITORIALY DISCUSSED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MIDEAST DIFFICULTIES AND SAW ONLY SLIM CHANCE OF HIM WINNING BOTH EGYPT'S AND SYRIA'S ACCEPTANCE OF POSSIBLE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. BUT THE PAPER SAID A SEPARATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT OVER THE SINAI MIGHT PROMPT SYRIA TO ACCEPT A NEW SETTLEMENT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. FOR THIS, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR ISRAEL TO PLEDGE FURTHER WITHDRAWALS FROM BOTH FRONTS.

5. COMMENTING ON CAMBODIA, TA HUA EVENING NEWS (60,000) MARCH 11 EDITORIALY WONDERED WHAT HEAVY PRICE MUST BE PAID TO MAKE THE U.S. CLEARLY SEE THE TRICKS THE COMMUNISTS ARE PLAYING IN NEGOTIATIONS AND DETENTE EFFORTS. TO THE COMMUNISTS DETENTE DOES NOT MEAN AN ENDING OF CONFLICT BUT RATHER A STRATEGIC PAUSE FOR A FRESH OFFENSIVE. THE PAPER WAS SADDENED TO SEE IGNORANCE LOOMING IN THE FREE WORLD AS EVIDENCED PARTICULARLY BY THE LATEST "STUPID UTTERANCES" OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN. THE PAPER HOPED FOR AN EMERGENCE OF WISDOM TO STOP MAOIST ATTEMPTS TO MAKE CAMBODIA A MODEL FOR MAOIST-STYLE "PEACE."

6. MIN TSU EVENING NEWS (60,000) MARCH 11 ALSO LAMENTED THE LACK OF COMBATIVE MORALE IN THE U.S. AND THE "SHAMEFUL" DOMESTIC CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE CONGRESS OVER THE CAMBODIA CRISIS. HOWEVER, PAPER SAID, THERE IS STILL TIME FOR WASHINGTON TO REASSERT ITS TOPPLING LEADERSHIP IN THE FREE WORLD BY DISCARDING THE NIXON DOCTRINE.
CLARKE

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